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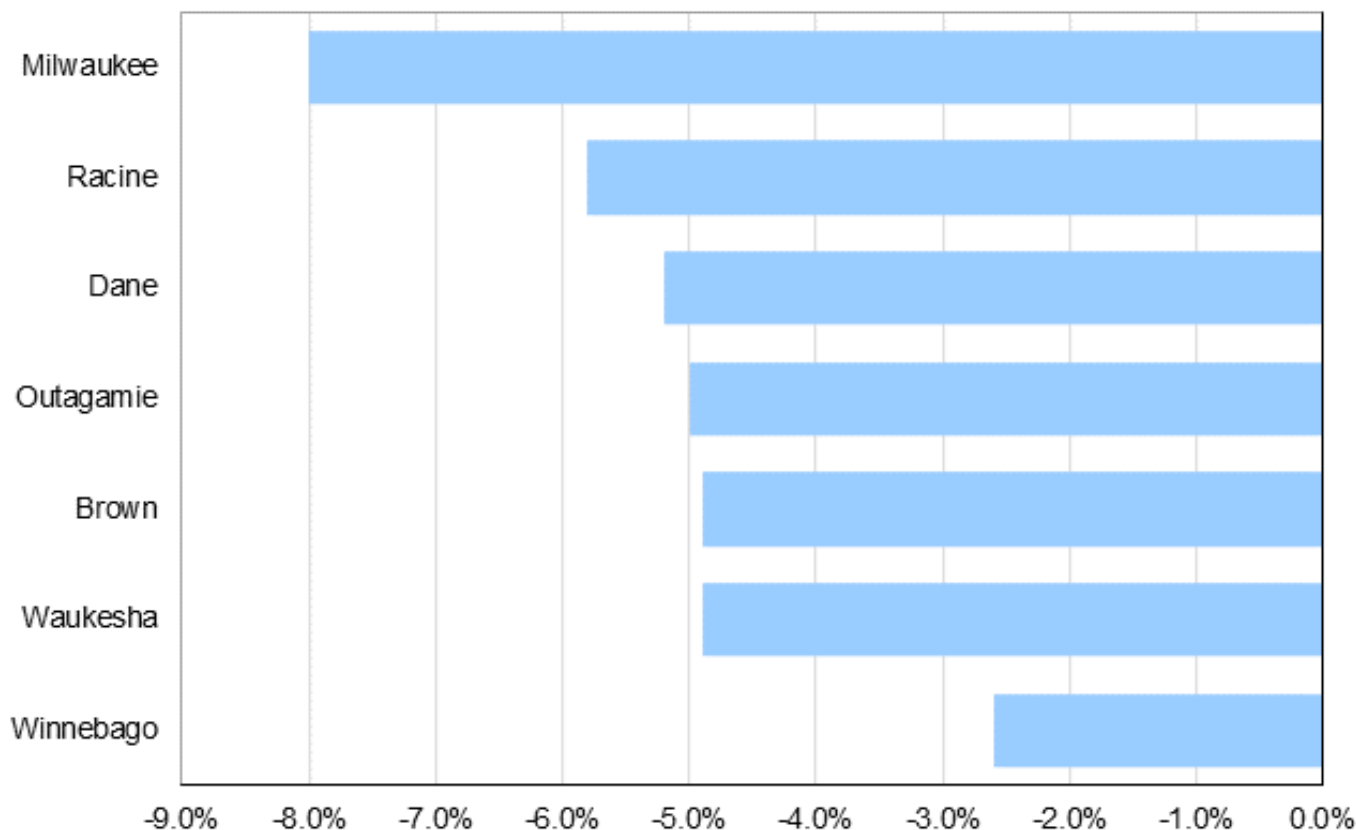
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## County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2020

Employment fell in all of the seven largest counties in Wisconsin from September 2019 to September 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that Milwaukee County and Racine County had the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at 8.0 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Wisconsin, September 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Maui + Kalawao, HI, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 35.4 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 1.9 percent.

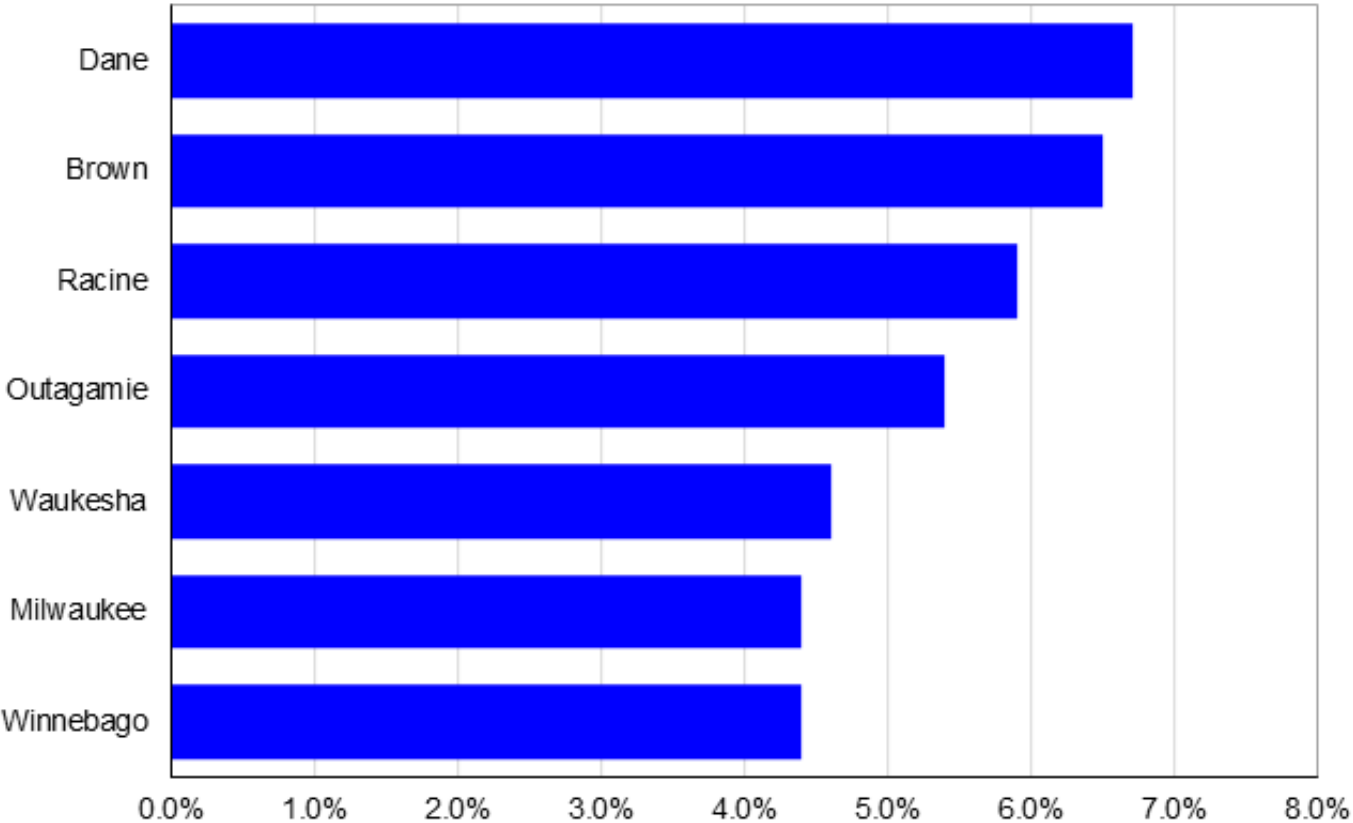
Among the seven largest counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee County (449,300) in September 2020. Within Milwaukee County’s private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment (93,558). Together, the seven largest Wisconsin counties accounted for 51.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of the 65 smaller counties were below the national average in the third quarter of 2020. (See [table 2](#).)

**Large county wage changes**

All seven large Wisconsin counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2019 to the third quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2](#).) Dane County has the largest gain (+6.7 percent), followed by Brown County (+6.5 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among Wisconsin’s other large counties ranged from 5.9 percent to 4.4 percent. Average weekly wages for the nation increased 7.4 percent over the year.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 350 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, the increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Employment declines occurring in some higher-paid industries also feature significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Seven large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in all seven of the largest counties in Wisconsin were below the national average of \$1,173 in the third quarter of 2020. Among the large counties in the state, Dane County (\$1,124) had the highest average weekly wage. Outagamie and Racine Counties had the lowest weekly wages (\$964 each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 96 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2020. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,922. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 261 counties. At \$697 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's smaller counties**

Among the 65 smaller counties in Wisconsin—those with employment below 75,000—all reported an average weekly wage below the national average of \$1,173. Sheboygan County (\$975) reported the highest average weekly wage in the state, while Florence County (\$550) reported the state's lowest average weekly wage.

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 8 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 24 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 24 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 16 had average weekly wages of \$900 or higher. (See [chart 3](#).) The higher-paying counties were located in and around the Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Madison metropolitan areas and the smaller areas of Racine and Kenosha.

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm). The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.**

**The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly

total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS web site at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew). However, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the seven largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2020**

Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	--	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Wisconsin .....	181.2	2,746.6	-5.2	--	977	34	5.3	43
Brown .....	7.3	151.3	-4.9	90	1,012	215	6.5	221
Dane .....	16.6	327.2	-5.2	105	1,124	128	6.7	209
Milwaukee .....	27.8	449.3	-8.0	245	1,053	184	4.4	312
Outagamie .....	5.7	103.3	-5.0	94	964	264	5.4	276
Racine .....	4.8	70.9	-5.8	145	964	264	5.9	254
Waukesha .....	13.9	234.3	-4.9	90	1,103	149	4.6	307
Winnebago .....	4.0	90.1	-2.6	24	1,015	213	4.4	312

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2020**

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	138,549,503	\$1,173
Wisconsin .....	2,746,631	977
Adams .....	4,277	719
Ashland .....	7,570	823
Barron .....	21,176	782
Bayfield .....	4,144	645
Brown .....	151,257	1,012
Buffalo .....	3,821	780
Burnett .....	4,562	680
Calumet .....	14,657	825
Chippewa .....	24,389	836
Clark .....	10,891	790
Columbia .....	22,207	838
Crawford .....	6,982	721
Dane .....	327,232	1,124
Dodge .....	35,209	926
Door .....	13,983	720
Douglas .....	15,414	827
Dunn .....	17,052	818
Eau Claire .....	55,376	939
Florence .....	1,014	550
Fond du Lac .....	45,214	914
Forest .....	2,802	764
Grant .....	17,605	739
Green .....	14,827	813
Green Lake .....	5,796	774
Iowa .....	9,500	811
Iron .....	1,603	638
Jackson .....	7,948	843
Jefferson .....	32,418	843
Juneau .....	9,006	815
Kenosha .....	66,490	883
Kewaunee .....	6,499	800
La Crosse .....	65,822	916
Lafayette .....	4,097	763
Langlade .....	7,255	723
Lincoln .....	10,320	849
Manitowoc .....	32,271	832
Marathon .....	68,462	962
Marinette .....	17,940	813
Marquette .....	3,953	698
Menominee .....	1,875	684
Milwaukee .....	449,253	1,053
Monroe .....	20,297	860
Oconto .....	8,691	733
Oneida .....	15,762	846
Outagamie .....	103,333	964
Ozaukee .....	40,434	931
Pepin .....	2,232	808
Pierce .....	10,074	748
Polk .....	15,250	755
Portage .....	32,338	882
Price .....	4,952	751
Racine .....	70,851	964
Richland .....	5,723	716
Rock .....	64,106	927

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2020 - Continued**

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
Rusk .....	4,685	711
St. Croix.....	33,218	866
Sauk .....	33,471	808
Sawyer .....	6,798	751
Shawano .....	12,092	682
Sheboygan .....	58,798	975
Taylor .....	8,232	778
Trempealeau .....	13,089	819
Vernon .....	8,351	773
Vilas.....	8,264	716
Walworth.....	40,520	788
Washburn .....	5,667	730
Washington.....	54,409	896
Waukesha.....	234,337	1,103
Waupaca .....	18,832	753
Waushara .....	6,062	696
Winnebago .....	90,085	1,015
Wood .....	36,753	923

**Footnotes**

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2020**

State	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Alabama .....	132.2	1,902.4	-4.5	978	33	6.4	27
Alaska .....	22.9	302.6	-10.7	1,165	14	5.4	42
Arizona .....	174.1	2,797.1	-4.2	1,091	22	7.3	17
Arkansas .....	93.6	1,180.1	-3.4	892	49	6.1	31
California .....	1,643.8	16,096.8	-9.2	1,466	4	12.0	1
Colorado .....	220.1	2,597.2	-5.6	1,235	9	5.6	38
Connecticut .....	125.4	1,555.6	-7.3	1,328	7	7.4	15
Delaware .....	34.9	428.8	-5.6	1,150	15	6.8	21
District of Columbia .....	43.3	713.7	-8.1	1,962	1	6.1	31
Florida .....	749.1	8,329.7	-5.8	1,029	27	8.0	11
Georgia.....	313.0	4,282.1	-5.2	1,084	23	5.8	35
Hawaii.....	46.5	507.5	-22.9	1,114	18	10.3	4
Idaho .....	70.7	763.7	-0.2	884	50	5.5	41
Illinois .....	385.9	5,558.5	-7.8	1,199	11	6.8	21
Indiana.....	172.4	2,941.8	-4.7	961	39	5.3	43
Iowa .....	105.1	1,475.0	-5.2	969	36	6.0	34
Kansas .....	89.2	1,325.4	-5.0	952	40	6.6	24
Kentucky.....	128.0	1,807.1	-5.5	935	43	5.8	35
Louisiana .....	139.5	1,734.6	-9.6	970	35	5.2	45
Maine.....	54.4	597.3	-5.9	966	37	9.0	9
Maryland.....	172.4	2,496.6	-7.6	1,277	8	9.5	7
Massachusetts .....	265.1	3,314.8	-9.4	1,488	2	9.7	6
Michigan .....	266.9	4,035.9	-7.9	1,096	20	7.5	14
Minnesota .....	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	1,178	12	6.4	27
Mississippi .....	74.9	1,092.4	-4.0	810	51	5.6	38
Missouri .....	218.8	2,681.7	-5.1	995	32	5.6	38
Montana .....	53.0	466.9	-2.5	904	48	6.6	24
Nebraska .....	73.7	949.9	-3.8	964	38	6.4	27
Nevada .....	87.9	1,251.0	-11.6	1,048	24	7.8	13
New Hampshire .....	56.1	634.2	-5.2	1,171	13	8.9	10
New Jersey.....	289.3	3,778.4	-8.0	1,331	6	9.5	7
New Mexico .....	63.1	771.9	-8.6	944	41	5.1	46
New York .....	657.6	8,547.7	-10.8	1,446	5	10.0	5
North Carolina .....	301.4	4,308.2	-4.4	1,039	26	6.9	20
North Dakota .....	32.5	398.2	-7.0	1,025	28	-0.3	50
Ohio .....	305.7	5,136.8	-5.6	1,040	25	6.6	24
Oklahoma .....	112.4	1,538.5	-5.7	917	46	2.3	48
Oregon .....	164.6	1,837.3	-7.0	1,113	19	7.4	15
Pennsylvania .....	366.5	5,501.0	-7.6	1,139	17	7.0	19
Rhode Island .....	40.1	452.5	-8.0	1,092	21	10.4	3
South Carolina.....	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	924	44	6.7	23
South Dakota.....	35.2	422.3	-2.6	918	45	7.2	18
Tennessee .....	173.6	2,918.1	-4.6	1,022	29	5.8	35
Texas .....	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5	1,150	15	3.8	47
Utah .....	114.3	1,518.2	-1.0	1,015	30	6.1	31
Vermont.....	26.4	283.9	-8.6	1,001	31	7.9	12
Virginia.....	285.7	3,737.0	-5.0	1,201	10	6.4	27
Washington.....	256.6	3,266.2	-6.3	1,482	3	11.0	2
West Virginia .....	51.7	649.1	-6.7	913	47	1.8	49
Wisconsin .....	181.2	2,746.6	-5.2	977	34	5.3	43
Wyoming .....	27.5	264.0	-6.8	939	42	-0.4	51
Puerto Rico.....	45.7	831.6	-5.3	547	(3)	3.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.4	33.9	-13.0	1,019	(3)	-0.5	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.



Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Wisconsin, third quarter 2020**

